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Application No.: 10/640,364 Attorney Docket No. EP-7600

## APR 0 7 2006 W

TRADE HE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| Applicant(s): William J. COLUCCI | )                             |
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| Date Filed: 08/13/2003           | ) Examiner: Drodge, Joseph W. |
|                                  | ) Art Unit: 1723              |
| Title: IN-TANK TIME RELEASE ION  | ) Confirmation No.: 8444      |
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First-Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: *MAIL STOP AMENDMENT*, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 5, 2006.

Beth Earnest

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

## AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's Office Action dated January 17, 2006.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9 and 11-19 of the present application provided in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are overcome by the arguments and amendments presented herein. Amendments have been made to Claims 1, 7, and 17-19, Claim 8 has been cancelled, and in conjunction with the arguments presented herein, the application is now in condition for allowance.

Allowance of the present application is earnestly solicited.